

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 EUR-12 FDRE-00 CU-02 SCA-01
/094 W

-----181415 094450 /46

O P 181235Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5038

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 0469

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, XA, ZA

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES

REF: STATE 017570

SUMMARY: RELIABLE INFORMATION ON NUMBERS AND COMPOSITION OF
REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN ZAMBIA IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE BECAUSE
OF THE GRZ'S PRACTICE OF ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR NAMIBIAN
AND RHODESIAN REFUGEES TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THERE IS A
GOOD ACCOUNTING OF THE SETTLED ANGOLAN REFUGEES ASSISTED BY THE
UNHCR (ABOUT 12,000), BUT THERE IS NO GOOD FIX ON THE NUMBER
OF ANGOLANS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE WHO ARE BASICALLY SHIFTING
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FOR THEMSELVES. THERE ARE ALSO SOUTH AFRICAN AND MALAWIAN
REFUGEES, WHO ARE NOT NUMEROUS AND WHO HAVE BEEN, FOR THE MOST
PART, ABSORBED INTO THE ZAMBIAN COMMUNITY. LITTLE IS KNOWN OF
THE CONDITION OF THE REFUGEES BEING ASSISTED BY THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS. ANGOLANS COVERED BY THE UNHCR PROGRAM ARE RECEIVING
APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE WITH SOME SHORTFALL IN THE AREAS OF
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES -- SPECIAL MEDICAL CARE AND EDUCATION. A

SUBSTANTIAL NEW INFLUX OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS UNLIKELY. A SIGNIFICANT UNKNOWN IS WHETHER OR NOT THERE MIGHT BE A SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES INTO ZAMBIA AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS OF LATE JANUARY 1977 THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICE PLANNED TO REPORT TO GENEVA THAT IT WAS ASSISTING ABOUT 12,000 ANGOLANS SETTLED IN REFUGEE CAMPS. APPROXIMATELY 100 OTHER ANGOLANS WERE IN LUSAKA IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1976, PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF 700 ADDITIONAL ANGOLAN REFUGEES, THE MEHEBA CAMP IN THE NORTHWESTERN PROVINCE ACCOMMODATED 2,509 ADULT MALES, 2,980 ADULT FEMALES, 2,430 FEMALE CHILDREN AND 2,701 MALE CHILDREN. THERE ARE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ANGOLANS IN ZAMBIA'S WESTERN PROVINCE, WHO APPARENTLY ARE SHIFTING FOR THEMSELVES, AND ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE RECEIVING ANY DIRECT ASSISTANCE FROM THE GRZ OR ANY OTHER SOURCE. THE UNHCR REP IS PLANNING A TRIP TO WESTERN PROVINCE IN EARLY MARCH TO ASSESS WITH THE LOCAL OFFICIALS THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE. HIS PERSONAL ESTIMATE IS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA IS WELL BELOW THE ONE-TIME GRZ ESTIMATED PEAK OF 30,000 AND THAT THE MAJOR FLOW OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES INTO ZAMBIA HAS CEASED. THE GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 800 ARRIVING LAST DECEMBER WERE FROM ANGOLA'S COASTAL AREAS AND HAD SPENT NEARLY A YEAR ON THEIR WAY TO ZAMBIA. HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN WITH THE ANGOLANS IS THAT HE IS NOT CERTAIN HOW MANY WOULD ACCEPT EVENTUAL REPATRIATION. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE IS WORRIED THAT PERHAPS THE SETTLEMENT AT MEHEBA MAY NOT BE AS TEMPORARY AS ENVISAGED. IF THIS IS THE CASE, PERHAPS MORE RESOURCES SHOULD BE PUT INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IN THE MEHEBA CAMP
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POPULATION OF AROUND 11,300 THERE ARE CASES OF LEPROSY AND TUBERCULOSIS AND THERE ARE AMPUTEES WHO NEED SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE. SCHOOLING IS ALSO A PROBLEM FOR THOSE WHO COMPLETE CLASS FIVE.

2. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 3,500 NAMIBIANS IN ZAMBIA, PRACTICALLY ALL OF WHOM ARE LOOKED AFTER BY SWAPO. THE UNHCR HANDLES ONLY 14 NON-SWAPO CASES, IN ADDITION TO THE APPROXIMATELY 90 NAMIBIANS MAINTAINED AT NUKUMBI COLLEGE.

3. THE GRZ'S HANDLING OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES IS CONDITIONED BY ITS POLITICAL AND LEGAL POSITION ON UDI WHICH IT REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE. IT, THEREFORE, CONSIDERS THE REFUGEES A BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY AND BELIEVES THAT ACKNOWLEDGING UNHCR COMPETENCE WOULD WEAKEN ITS POSITION. CARE OF THE REFUGEES IS THEREFORE LEFT TO THE LIBERATION GROUPS. THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN INCREASE RECENTLY IN BLACKS LEAVING RHODESIA TO JOIN FREEDOM FIGHTERS, PARTICULARLY NDEBELES FROM WESTERN RHODESIA. A RECENT ILLUSTRATION OF THE GRZ' POLICY REGARDING RHODESIAN

REFUGEES WAS THE CASE OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM BOTSWANA.
AFTER ARRIVAL IN ZAMBIA, THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO ZAPU'S CARE.

4. WHILE OVER THE YEARS A NUMBER OF MALAWIANS HAVE SOUGHT
REFUGE IN ZAMBIA, MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. MEMBERS OF THE WATCH TOWER SECT WHO HAVE
FLED MALAWI ARE AN EXCEPTION. THEY REMAIN APART FROM THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY AND THEY ASK FOR NO ASSISTANCE. CURRENTLY THE UNHCR
IS ASSISTING ONLY 22 MALAWIANS. THE POSSIBILITY IS ALWAYS
PRESENT THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOM AND THE WATCH TOWER
SECT COULD GENERATE A NEW FLOW OF REFUGEES WHO WOULD NEED
ASSISTANCE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

5. THE PRESSURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES WHICH HAS HIT BOTSWANA
SINCE SOWETO HAS YET TO BE FELT IN ZAMBIA. THE SMALL NUMBER
OF SOUTH AFRICANS RESIDENT HERE ARE MOSTLY INTEGRATED INTO
THE COMMUNITY AND ARE NOT REGARDED AS A PROBLEM.
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6. ACCORDING TO THE UNHCR, THE GRZ, IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING
LAND FOR REFUGEE SETTLEMENT AND SOME FOOD LAST YEAR, ALLOCATED
K200,000 TO THE ZAMBIAN COMMISSIONER OF REFUGEES FOR DISBURSE-
MENT. THE GRZ ALSO HAS PROVIDED TRANSPORT ON A REIMBURSABLE
BASIS AND HAS BEEN FAITHFUL IN CARRYING OUT ITS AGREEMENT TO
ASSIST THE UNCHR IN CARING FOR THE ANGOLAN REFUGEES. WE HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN SOLID INFORMATION ON THE AMOUNTS AND
TYPE OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO RHODESIAN REFUGEES. NAMIBIANS ARE
POSSIBLY PROVIDED SOME ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TRANSPORTATION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 0469

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

AND FOOD BY THE GRZ, AND SWAPO RECEIVES GRANTS FROM THE SWEDISH
AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS AND FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO
ASSIST THE REFUGEES IN ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA.

7. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE U.S. HAS CONTRIBUTED
\$167,000 THROUGH THE UNHCR FOR NUKUMBI COLLEGE AND THIS YEAR
MAY INCREASE LAST YEAR'S CONTRIBUTION OF \$250,000 TO THE U.N.
INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA. IF SUCH IS THE CASE, THE EMBASSY VERY
MUCH HOPES IT WILL RECEIVE PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF ANY PLANNED
PRESS RELEASES SO WE CAN AVOID THE UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE OF
LAST YEAR WHEN WE LEARNED OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THE DAY AFTER
ELABORATE CEREMONIES INCLUDING A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA
AT THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE WERE HELD WITHOUT ANY MENTION OF THE
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U.S. CONTRIBUTION.

8. PRESENTLY THE REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN ZAMBIA ARE MANAGEABLE;
THIS COULD CHANGE IF THERE SHOULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL INFLUX
OF REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA. CIVIL DISORDER CREATED BY INCREASED
RACIAL WARFARE, OR PROVOKED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT LACKING SUPPORT FROM ONE OF RHODESIA'S MAJOR ETHNIC
GROUPS COULD GIVE RISE TO AN INCREASED FLOW OF REFUGEES. GIVEN
THE POOR STATE OF GRZ FINANCES A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER
OF REFUGEES WOULD REPRESENT A BURDEN BEYOND THE GRZ'S CAPACITY
TO BEAR. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND. HOW LARGE
THIS FLOW WOULD BE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE; IT WOULD DEPEND
ON THE INTENSITY AND DURATION OF CIVIL STRIFE IN RHODESIA.
GRZ WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE AN INFLUX OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES
COULD DEPEND ON WHICH NATIONALIST GROUP ESTABLISHES ITSELF
IN POWER. IF THE GRZ FAVORS THOSE IN AUTHORITY IN AN INDEPENDENT
ZIMBABWE, THE GRZ COULD BE EXPECTED TO DISCOURAGE REFUGEES
FROM COMING TO ZAMBIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE GROUP IN POWER
IN RHODESIA IS OPPOSED BY ZAMBIA, THE GRZ WOULD WELCOME THE

REFUGEES, BUT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE TO CARE FOR THEM. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA00469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770058-0934
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770227/aaaaayfw.tel
Line Count: 225
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 899f7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 17570
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3282845
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, XJ, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/899f7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009